

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An acetabular prosthetic comprising:
a first prosthetic having a bone engagement surface[[:]], a first inner integral generally spherical polished concave bearing surface configured to directly engage an articulating surface of a femoral component[[: and]], a locking mechanism; and
a second prosthetic having a second spherical concave bearing surface, said second prosthetic being disposed between the generally spherical polished concave bearing surface and an articulating surface of a femoral component, wherein said locking mechanism is configured to fixably couple [[a]] the second prosthetic implant having a second spherical concave bearing surface to the generally spherical polished concave bearing surface so as to prevent relative movement therebetween, the second spherical concave bearing surface is configured to substantially surround a head of the femoral component.

2. (Currently Amended) The acetabular prosthetic according to claim 1 wherein said second prosthetic is selected from a group of a constraining ring with a bearing insert, ~~a slotted constraining ring~~, a bearing insert, and a bearing insert having an integral constraining ring and combinations thereof.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The acetabular prosthetic according to claim 1 further comprising a peripheral surface, which defines said locking mechanism, and wherein said peripheral surface defines at least one aperture configured to accept a coupling fastener.

5. (Original) The acetabular prosthetic according to claim 1 wherein said second prosthetic implant comprises a polymer bearing surface.

6. (Original) The acetabular prosthetic according the claim 5 wherein said second prosthetic is a bearing insert.

7. (Original) The acetabular prosthetic according to claim 6 wherein said bearing insert comprises an integral constraining ring.

8. (Previously Presented) The acetabular prosthetic according to claim 7 wherein said bearing insert defines a bearing insert coupling groove configured to accept a locking ring.

9. (Previously Presented) The acetabular prosthetic according to claim 1 wherein said second prosthetic comprises a constraining ring.

10. (Original) The acetabular prosthetic according to claim 9 wherein said constraining ring includes a hemi-spherical bearing surface.

11. (Original) The acetabular prosthetic according to claim 9 wherein said constraining ring defines a constraining ring groove configured to accept a locking ring to couple said constraining ring to said first prosthetic.

12. (Original) The acetabular prosthetic according to claim 9 wherein said constraining ring defines a locking flange, said locking flange being configured to mate with said locking mechanism.

13. (Original) The acetabular prosthetic according to claim 9 wherein said constraining ring comprises a metal reinforcement ring.

14. (Original) An acetabular prosthetic according to claim 9 wherein said constraining ring comprises a restraining lip.

15. (Original) The acetabular prosthetic according to claim 9 wherein the constraining ring comprises a plurality of restraining lips.

16. (Original) The acetabular prosthetic according to claim 9 wherein the constraining ring comprises an exterior surface which defines a reinforcement accepting

groove, said reinforcement accepting groove being configured to retain a reinforcement ring.

17. (Original) The acetabular prosthetic according to claim 9 wherein the constraining ring comprises an integrally molded reinforcement structure.

18. (Original) The acetabular prosthetic according to claim 17 wherein the reinforcement structure has a C-shaped cross-section.

19. (Previously Presented) The acetabular prosthetic according to claim 17 wherein the reinforcement structure is a bearing insert.

20. (Original) The acetabular prosthetic according to claim 9 wherein the constraining ring comprises a coupling plate having a plurality of elastically deformable coupling flanges which are configured to couple to the locking mechanism.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A kit of prosthetic components comprising:
a femoral prosthetic having a ~~metal~~ an articulating surface;
an acetabular prosthetic defining an integral polished spherical bearing surface configured to directly interface with the ~~metal~~ articulating surface, and a locking mechanism; and
a second prosthetic having a second spherical concave bearing surface, said second prosthetic being disposed between the integral polished spherical bearing surface and the femoral prosthetic, wherein said locking mechanism is configured to accept [[a]] the second prosthetic device and prevent relative movement of the second prosthetic device with respect to the integral polished spherical bearing surface; and
~~at least one second prosthetic device having a partially spherical bearing surface, the partially spherical bearing surface is configured to surround a portion of the head of a femoral component.~~

23. (Currently Amended) The kit according to claim 22 wherein said second prosthetic device is selected from a group consisting of a constraining ring with a bearing insert, a bearing insert, a bearing having an integral constraining ring, and combinations thereof.

24. (Original) The kit according to claim 22 further comprising a plurality of femoral prosthetic components.

25. (Currently Amended) The kit according to claim 22 wherein said second prosthetic device comprises ~~[[is]]~~ a constraining ring defining a constraining ring bearing surface and a constraining ring locking mechanism configured to fixably couple said constraining ring to said acetabular prosthetic.

26. (Currently Amended) The kit according to claim 22 wherein the second prosthetic device comprises ~~[[is]]~~ a polymer bearing insert ~~which defines an interior bearing surface~~ and a bearing insert locking mechanism, wherein said bearing insert locking mechanism is configured to lock said polymer bearing insert to said acetabular prosthetic.

27. (Currently Amended) A method for implanting a medical device comprising:

implanting a first prosthetic to a prepared joint, said first prosthetic having a locking mechanism and an integral polished internal bearing surface configured to directly interface with a ~~metallic~~ femoral bearing ~~and a locking mechanism;~~

implanting a second prosthetic having a second spherical concave bearing surface between the integral polished internal bearing surface and the femoral bearing, wherein said locking mechanism ~~which is configured to fixably accept a~~ accepts the second prosthetic ~~having a second bearing surface which substantially surrounds a head portion of a femoral component and to prevent~~ prevents relative movement of the second prosthetic with respect to the integral polished internal bearing surface, ~~to a prepared joint; and~~

inserting the metallic femoral bearing ~~a femoral prosthetic~~ within a cavity defined by the integral internal bearing surface of the first prosthetic.

28. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 27 further comprising coupling ~~[[a]]~~ the second prosthetic ~~device~~ to the locking mechanism after the first prosthetic device has been implanted in the prepared joint.

29. (Original) The method according to claim 27 further comprising coupling ~~a polymer bearing insert~~ said second prosthetic to said locking mechanism.

30. (Original) The method according to claim 27 further comprising coupling a constraining ring to said locking mechanism.

31. (Original) The method according to claim 28 further comprising coupling ~~a polymer bearing insert~~ said second prosthetic having an integral constraining ring to the locking mechanism.

32. (Original) The method according to claim 27 further comprising:
removing the femoral prosthesis from said first prosthetic;
coupling said second prosthetic to said first prosthetic; and
inserting the femoral prosthesis into said first and second prosthetics.

33. (Currently Amended) A method for implanting a medical device comprising:

implanting a first prosthetic having an integral internal bearing surface and a locking mechanism; ~~which is configured to fixably accept~~

~~a second prosthetic having a substantially hemispherical second bearing surface which contacts a head portion of a femoral component, to a prepared joint;~~

inserting a femoral prosthetic within the integral internal bearing surface of the first prosthetic;

removing the femoral ~~prosthesis~~ prosthetic from said first prosthetic;

coupling ~~[[said]]~~ a second prosthetic to said first prosthetic after removing the femoral prosthetic from said first prosthetic; and

inserting the femoral prosthesis into said first and second prosthetics, wherein said second prosthesis is disposed between the integral internal bearing surface and the femoral prosthetic ~~about said femoral implant prior to its coupling to said first prosthesis.~~

34. (Currently Amended) An acetabular prosthetic implant comprising:

a first member having a bone engagement surface and an integral generally spherical polished first bearing surface configured to interface with an articulate articulating surface of a femoral prosthetic, said first member defining a locking mechanism ~~configured to be coupled to a second prosthetic member~~; and

a second member, coupled to said locking mechanism so as to prevent relative movement of the second member with respect to the first member, said second

member defining a second semi-spherical bearing surface, said first and second bearing surfaces defining a generally capsule shaped cavity elongated along a predetermined axis; and wherein said generally capsule shaped cavity is configured to rotatably accept a head of a femoral prosthetic and allow the translation of the head along ~~[[a]]~~ the predetermined axis.

35. (Original) The acetabular prosthetic according to claim 34 wherein said integral first bearing surface is hemispherical.

36. (Original) The acetabular prosthetic according to claim 34 wherein one of said first and second prosthetic members further defines a generally cylindrical inner bearing surface.

37. (Original) The acetabular prosthetic according to claim 36 wherein said generally cylindrical inner bearing surface has a length of about 1 to about 4 mm.

38-43. (Cancelled)

44. (Previously Presented) The acetabular prosthetic according to claim 1 further comprising a peripheral surface between the bone engaging surface and the concave bearing surface, and wherein said locking mechanism is a locking flange disposed above a portion of peripheral surface and defining a locking groove between

the locking flange and the peripheral surface, said locking flange further defining a plurality of alignment notches.

45. (Previously Presented) The acetabular prosthetic according to claim 22 wherein the acetabular prosthetic defines a peripheral surface adjacent to the first bearing surface, said locking mechanism is a locking flange defining a plurality of alignment notches, and defining a locking groove between the locking flange and the peripheral surface.

46. (Previously Presented) The acetabular prosthetic according to claim 34 wherein the acetabular prosthetic defines a peripheral surface adjacent to the first bearing surface, said locking mechanism defines a locking groove and a plurality of alignment notches.

47. (Previously Presented) The acetabular prosthetic according to claim 1 wherein substantially all of the inner integral surface is a polished concave bearing surface.